

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing a program guide, the method comprising the steps of:
acquiring (52) program guide data from a content provider;
5 locally storing the acquired program guide data;
transmitting (58) a subset of the locally stored program guide data to a
remote terminal;
receiving (62) a request for an update to the subset from the remote
terminal;
10 accessing the locally stored program guide to create the requested update;
and
transmitting the update to the remote terminal.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the remote terminal is a set-top box 44.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the update request is generated due to a
channel change.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the subset of the locally stored program
20 guide data contains channel IDs for all the channels in the locally stored program
guide and detailed program information for one of the channels in the locally
stored program guide.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
25 periodically acquiring (54) updates to the program guide data from the
content provider; and
altering (54) the locally stored program guide data such that the locally
stored program guide conforms to the updates.
- 30 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:
transmitting a new subset to the remote terminal if an update received
from the content provider altered data in the locally stored program guide data
that was included in the subset previously transmitted to the terminal.

7. A method of providing a program guide, the method comprising the steps of:
allocating (56) a cache memory for storage of a subset of program guide data;
5 acquiring (58) the subset of program guide data;
storing the subset of program guide data in the cache memory; and
processing (60) the stored subset of program guide data to create a program guide.
- 10 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:
displaying the program guide to a client.
9. The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a channel change request from a client;
15 requesting a second subset of program guide data;
receiving the second subset of program guide data; and
storing the second subset of program guide data in the cache memory.
- 20 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the program guide data is remotely stored
in a Mini-Headend unit (12).
11. A system for providing a program guide, the system comprising:
means (18) for acquiring program guide data from a content provider;
means (22) for locally storing the acquired program guide data;
25 means (12, 36) for transmitting a subset of the locally stored program
guide data to a remote terminal;
means (12) for receiving a request for an update to the subset from the
remote terminal;
means (30) for accessing the locally stored program guide to create the
30 requested update; and
means (28, 30, 36) for transmitting the update to the remote terminal.
12. The system of claim 11 wherein the remote terminal is a set-top box (44).
- 35 13. The system of claim 11 wherein the update request is generated due to a
channel change.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the subset of the locally stored program guide data contains channel IDs for all the channels in the locally stored program guide and detailed program information for one of the channels in the locally stored program guide.

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15. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means (18) for periodically acquiring updates to the program guide data from the content provider; and

10 means (30) for altering the locally stored program guide data such that the locally stored program guide conforms to the updates.

16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:

15 means (28, 30, 36) for transmitting a new subset to the remote terminal if an update received from the content provider altered data in the locally stored program guide data that was included in the subset previously transmitted to the terminal.

17. A system for providing a program guide, the system comprising:

20 means (44) for allocating a cache memory for storage of a subset of program guide data;

means (12, 36) for acquiring the subset of program guide data;

means (44) for storing the subset of program guide data in the cache memory; and

25 means (44) for processing the stored subset of program guide data to create a program guide.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:

means (44) for displaying the program guide to a client.

30 19. The system of claim 17, further comprising:

means (44) for receiving a channel change request from a client;

means (28, 36, 44) for requesting a second subset of program guide data;

means (28, 36, 44) for receiving the second subset of program guide data; and

35 means (44) for storing the second subset of program guide data in the cache memory.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the program guide data is remotely stored in a Mini-Headend unit (12).